

Attorney Docket No.: BERN-0045
Inventors: Eric F. Bernstein
Serial No.: 09/913,472
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Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of
claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.

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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1-3: (canceled)

Claim 4: (currently amended) An in vitro system ~~according to claim 1~~ wherein the for identifying agents capable of inhibiting or preventing oxidative damage comprising:

a cell culture which expresses a reporter gene regulated by a human elastin promoter; and

a chemical means for generating reactive oxygen species within the cell culture, said chemical means for generating reactive oxygen species is being a hypoxanthine and xanthine oxidase system.

Claim 5: (canceled)

Claim 6: (currently amended) A method ~~according to Claim 5~~ wherein the for identifying agents capable of inhibiting or preventing oxidative damage comprising:

adding a test agent suspected of providing protection against oxidative damage to a cell culture which expresses a reporter gene regulated by a human elastin promoter;

adding a chemical means to the cell culture for generating

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reactive oxygen species in the cell culture, said chemical means for generation of reactive oxygen species is being a hypoxanthine and xanthine oxidase system;

determining human elastin promoter activity in the cell culture exposed to the test agent after a selected period of time; and

comparing the determined human elastin promoter activity in the cell culture exposed to the test agent to human elastin promoter activity in a control cell culture wherein a decrease in the determined human elastin promoter activity is indicative of the test agent inhibiting or preventing oxidative damage.

Claim 7: (new) An in vitro system for identifying agents capable of inhibiting or preventing oxidative damage comprising:

a cell culture which expresses a reporter gene regulated by a human elastin promoter; and

a chemical means which does not comprise UVA or UVB exposure for generating reactive oxygen species within the cell culture.

Claim 8: (new) A method for identifying agents capable of inhibiting or preventing oxidative damage comprising:

adding a test agent suspected of providing protection

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against oxidative damage to a cell culture which expresses a reporter gene regulated by a human elastin promoter;

adding a chemical means which does not comprise UVA or UVB exposure to the cell culture for generating reactive oxygen species in the cell culture;

determining human elastin promoter activity in the cell culture exposed to the test agent after a selected period of time; and

comparing the determined human elastin promoter activity in the cell culture exposed to the test agent to human elastin promoter activity in a control cell culture wherein a decrease in the determined human elastin promoter activity is indicative of the test agent inhibiting or preventing oxidative damage.